

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7506

BILL NUMBER: HB 1216

DATE PREPARED: Dec 30, 2000

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Character Education.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires public elementary schools to provide good citizenship instruction that includes a formal character development program that is approved by the Department of Education (the Department).

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Department would experience a minimal increase in administrative expenses in approving school corporation character development programs used as a base for good citizenship instruction at the elementary school level. Although school corporations would not be required to utilize the Department's current resource guide on good citizenship instruction (described below), it is likely that they would do so, nonetheless, due to its availability.

The Department estimates that a large percentage of school corporations already provide good citizenship instruction at both the primary and secondary levels. However, it is also estimated that schools at the primary level (i.e., elementary schools) offer such instruction more readily.

Background- Public Law 203-1995 required the Department of Education to develop a comprehensive plan of good citizenship instruction, and to submit that plan to the Indiana General Assembly. In response to Public Law 203-1995, the Department created "*Partners for Good Citizenship: Parents-Schools-Communities*". This resource guide (which provides curriculum suggestions for grades K-12) was distributed to approximately 1,000 Indiana teachers via Department-sponsored workshops, as well as to all 294 school corporations.

In 1999 the Department, in partnership with three school corporations, was awarded a three-year grant for Character Education from the United States Department of Education. A statewide clearinghouse website on citizenship and character education was established to serve both partner and nonpartner schools, as well

as other interested stakeholders. The clearinghouse website is maintained on the Department's web page listed below in Information Sources.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: School corporations that have not adopted good citizenship instruction at the elementary school level would experience an increase in administrative expenses associated with the research of noncommercial resources and implementation of the required curriculum. However, these costs would likely be mitigated by the Department resources described above.

The specific effects of this bill would vary by school corporation and would depend upon local action.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations.

Information Sources: Mary Fortney, Department of Education, (317) 232-9158; Department of Education Clearinghouse Website: <http://ideanet.doe.state.in.us/charactered/welcome.html>